

New Internationalist

The people, the ideas, the action in the fight for global justice

WHERE ARE THE FORESTS GOING?

NEW INTERNATIONALIST EASIER ENGLISH Upper Intermediate READY LESSON



This lesson:

Grammar: order the words

Vocabulary: match

Speaking: discussion/prediction

Reading: a text about forests

Grammar reading: gapfill verbs,
prepositions and articles

Speaking: role play

Order these words to make a quote:

doing	just	to	to	to
doing	ourselves.	we	we	
mirror	world	and		
what	one	are	are	is
another	forests	of	of	
reflection	What	the	the	a

What does this mean?

“What we are doing to the forests of the world is just a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another.”

Mahatma Gandhi

Vocabulary – match:

1/ timber

a) cutting trees

2/ logging

b) cutting down so many trees that there is no more forest

3/
deforestation

c) wood prepared for commercial use

Discuss these questions:

1/ Is deforestation increasing or decreasing?
Why?

2/ Why are activists who fight to save the forest dying?

3/ Why is it difficult to stop illegal logging?



Now read the text to find the
answers:

Choose the easy or difficult text:

Easy text:

http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/More_environmental_killings:_more_forests_disappearing

Difficult text:

<http://newint.org/blog/2014/05/13/deforestation-southeast-asia/>

What's your grammar problem?

1) Verbs?

2) Prepositions?

3) Articles?

4) All 3 of the above?

Read the text and underline / look at
all the examples of your grammar point

Now test yourselves:

Put away the text and see how much of your grammar you can remember or work out.

Grammar text 1 – add the verbs:

In the first quarter of 2014, there 1)..... a lot more deforestation in the world. Since January, NASA's Earth Observatory, 2).....very big increases in deforestation across the world – 162 per cent in Bolivia, 150 per cent in Malaysia, 63 per cent in Nigeria and 89 per cent in Cambodia. Forests 3)....., and where 4)..... the community leaders and activists who 5)..... against this?

Global Witness (an Environmental justice group) recently 6)..... that people who 7)..... to 8)..... their lands and forests 10)..... - more than one person per week. Between 2002 and 2013, nearly 1,000 activists 11)..... in 35 countries.

Grammar text 2 – prepositions

Two years ago, Cambodian illegal-logging activist Chut Wutty died. Wutty was shot and killed 1).... military police 2).... an investigation 3)... illegal logging. But his work continues: 4)... Cambodia's Prey Lang forest, Wutty taught many people 5)....the villages how to defend their natural resources.

The Prey Lang Community Network is a Cambodian group that fights 6)... illegal loggers. Teams 7).... people patrol teams and take away chainsaws they find and destroy them. They also burn the timber 8)... stop loggers or corrupt authorities 9).... making a profit.

Deforestation 10)... Prey Lang is one 11)... the big areas shown 12)... NASA. It is similar 13)... all the other areas. They have cut the forest 14)... clear a space 15)... a new rubber plantations, and have built sawmills (machines) 16)... process the wood.

Grammar text 3 – add the articles

Three weeks ago, local environmentalist and old friend of Chut Wutty, Marcus Hardtke, made 1)... surprise inspection. They say this is 2)... “agricultural development”, but it is full of cut logs and machinery. It is 3)... illegal logging operation.

When Marcus arrived, they tried to hide 4)... truck full of wood by pushing it into 5)... small rubber trees. Satellite images from 6)... last three months show many new roads going from here into 7)... forest of Prey Lang.

And important people support this illegal logging. In 2011 I was sitting next to Wutty on 8)... Prey Lang Community Network patrol, investigating 9)... same area. A truck of military officers arrived and pointed guns at Wutty. Community members ran to fight them off, with no guns. I filmed what happened on my camera and, hours later, showed it to Wutty. He showed me who was 10)... district governor and military police chief.

People are now saying that 11)... illegal logging group in Prey Lang is run by 12)... brother and cousin of Hun Sen, Cambodia’s leader. Global Witness was 13)... first group to say how Cambodia’s leader is linked to illegal logging. They were quiet for several years, but now, 14)... mafia family has returned to Prey Lang forest.

Grammar text 4 – fill the gaps

The military have 1).... doing illegal logging since the Khmer Rouge. The forest conservation guards earn so little in Cambodia 2).... they easily agree to accepting bribes. So the real work of protecting the forest is done 3).... the local communities.

USAID has said they will give nearly £20 million for sustainable forestry in Prey Lang and east Cambodia. 4).... the patrol teams have not received any money 5).....

Development agencies seem afraid to fight the timber mafia and their connections in government. So politics is not 6) Many Cambodians support the Prey Lang Community Network, but there is not 7).... international support.

Before he died, Chut Wutty said that 8).... nothing changed, in five years the forest 9).... be gone.

Two years later, that prediction is coming true. But the Prey Lang community, in this forgotten corner of 10).... forest, is, maybe, the last hope.

Teach each other

In new groups (one learner from each of the 4 groups) show each other what you've put in your gaps and discuss.

Then check everything from the text:

http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/More_environmental_killings:_more_forests_disappearing

Speaking: role play in pairs

LEARNER A

You are an illegal logger in the forest in Cambodia.

Explain to the Community Network member why you are cutting the trees.

LEARNER B

You are from the Prey Lang Community Network.

Try to persuade the illegal logger to stop cutting the trees.

Homework:

Read more about **forests** or the **environment**.

Put one of these words (or both!) into the “search” box at the top right of the Easier English wiki:

http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Main_Page

and read some of the articles.

